

These cleanups are pivotal to comprehensive economic revitalization efforts like the one many of us in the Pennsylvania delegation are looking at for Allegheny County and for the Mon Valley region in particular.

We have a good program here, and Congress in its wisdom found a sound funding mechanism for it. Let us demonstrate our good faith to small businesses in this sector and move this legislation forward without delay.

Last year, the Congress passed this legislation, but the Senate failed to act on it before adjournment last October. Since this year's version is identical to the previously approved bill, I expect the House will act expeditiously to pass the LUST Amendments Act. Hopefully, this will give the Senate ample time to send this legislation to the President for his approval.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in support of H.R. 688, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Amendments Act. As an original cosponsor of the legislation, this Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Colorado, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER, and the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK, for introducing this bill and working for its enactment.

Across the Nation, leaking underground storage tanks present a hazard which must be addressed. Unfortunately, less than half of the identified leaking tanks have been remedied. In addition, there are likely thousands of other unidentified leaking tanks which require action.

This legislation improves the current situation by distributing more money from the existing trust fund to the States where it belongs. The trust fund was established by Congress in 1986 and currently contains about \$1 billion. Although the trust fund is intended to provide assistance in the cleanup of underground storage tanks, too much of the money in the trust fund has been used to offset general Federal spending.

This Member certainly believes that the money in the trust fund should be used for the purposes for which it was originally intended; money simply accumulating in the trust fund obviously does not address the current needs. The large number of remaining leaking underground storage tank sites is evidence that the States could use this money which is currently accumulating in the trust fund. This bill would assist States in more efficiently receiving and disbursing money from the trust fund. It would also give the States increased flexibility in the use of money from the trust fund.

This Member urges his colleagues to support H.R. 688.

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Commerce Committee's Finance and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 688, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Act, commonly referred to as the LUST program.

My colleague, Mr. SCHAEFER, has developed a well-crafted piece of legislation which has two primary purposes. The first is to ensure that 85 percent of the money Congress appropriates for the program goes to the States; and to expand the uses for which the trust fund moneys can be used.

In 1986, Congress created the LUST Trust Fund, paid for with a one-tenth of one cent per

gallon tax on motor fuels. The Trust Fund is to be used by the EPA or the States, in accordance with Federal law, to enforce Underground Storage Tank corrective action requirements; to conduct cleanups where no solvent responsible party can be found, where there is a known but unwilling responsible party, or where a responsible party does not have the financial ability to pay for the entire cleanup.

Unlike many other well-intentioned bills enacted by Congress, which then fall victim to the law of unintended consequences, the LUST program has met its intended purpose to set leak detection and prevention standards for underground tanks.

H.R. 688 improves on the current program because it provides an increased amount of stability and certainty to State agencies while granting greater flexibility.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 688.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER, once again for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 688, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 688.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1271, FAA RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-70) on the resolution (H. Res. 125) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1271) to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1273, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-71) on the resolution (H. Res. 126) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1273) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1274, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-72) on the resolution (H. Res. 127) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1274) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1275, CIVILIAN SPACE AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-73) on the resolution (H. Res. 128) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1275) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

FIRE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1272) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1272

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (F) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and